

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Director, DCI-DDCI Executive Staff

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

24 July 1981

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

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OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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NIO for Near East and South Asia

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OSD Review

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: The Deputy Secretary's Meeting with Minister of Interior Guiga
(Tunisia) (U)

(U) Time and Place: July 14, 1981 at 1000 in the Deputy Secretary's office.

(U) Participants

USThe Deputy Secretary
RADM Howe
Mr. Hillebrandt (notetaker)TunisiaMinister of Interior
Driss Guiga
Ambassador Ali Hedda

(C) After Deputy Secretary Carlucci's initial welcoming remarks, Minister Guiga began by saying he was in Washington to talk to some of the Congressmen about the situation in Tunisia

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(C) Mr. Guiga said his position includes responsibility for the internal defense of Tunisia and talked about this function:

- Internal defense is the duty of interior forces separate from the Army, including police forces, national guard, and a special force.
- Tunisia is concerned about the problem of internal security because Qadhafi is building a kind of "center of international terrorism"; training people from all parts of the world including Tunisia, Sudan, and Egypt.
- More than 2,500 Tunisians are in training in Libya, most of them involved because it is a way to "get money".
- If it goes on too long there will be a very strong international terrorist organization.
- The growing problem, as he sees it, is not to face up to Libya's regular Army, but to be prepared to face its international terrorist army.
- Tunisia's security problem is further compounded by the fact that Tunisia is a very open country with easy access by tourists, etc.

OSD Review
completedClassified by Director, Africa Region/ISA
on 16 July 1987

SEC DEF CONTR No.

X15310

SECRET

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(S) Mr. Guiga said internal security is a goal Tunisia is pushing:

-- Tunisia is improving its capability with more training but that is not enough.

-- They are thinking about creating ^{an anti-Terrorist brigade of 250-300 men} ~~a special group~~ ^{help} to combat terrorism.

-- [REDACTED]

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-- They believe Qadhafi will someday try again in a more sophisticated way than Gafsa.

-- Tunisia must create a strong anti-terrorist group, fast moving and with light arms; that is the goal.

-- Tunisia hopes to get assistance from its friends with training, equipment, etc. *To deal with external threats.*

(S) [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] DOD can also be of assistance under the IMET program to help create a military unit with a rapid reaction capability. He said Gafsa was an example of both internal and external aggression, which is why there must be close cooperation; he recommended that any activities [REDACTED] be coordinated with what the Tunisian military is doing with DoD. The Deputy Secretary said that General Escheikh had been informed that we are prepared to send a group in late July for discussions and specific planning, to be followed by a larger training group later, probably a twelve-man team.

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(C) Mr. Guiga asked if there was any way the US could provide equipment for this purpose. The Deputy Secretary responded that we would have to do that under the FMS program; he said that he knew what we were providing -- \$95 million in FY 82 FMS credit -- was not enough for all the things Tunisia wanted to do, and that while there was hope that the program would be a mixture of grants and credits, that decision was in the hands of the Congress.

(C) Mr. Guiga asked about the possibility of surplus equipment being made available. The Deputy Secretary said that, although we had considerable surplus after WWII, it was long since gone and now anything given away must be taken directly from US military stocks. Ambassador Hedda asked about the phase out of old equipment as a source. The Deputy Secretary informed him that older equipment is passed to National Guard and Reserve units where it is used as long as it can be maintained.

(C) Mr. Guiga said he was asked by President Bourguiba to give "our friends in America a message": "Please tell them that we need help in our effort to combat international terrorism, not just more credits, but better delivery times too." Mr. Guiga made reference to a four year delivery time for M60 tanks. Mr. Hillebrandt said delivery would take approximately 2½ years (availability estimate in the LOA is 29 months from implementation).

(C) Mr. Carlucci said the US shares President Bourguiba's concern about Qadhafi. He is a menace. We see no useful purpose in his large stockpiles of military equipment.

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(C) Ambassador Hedda said the problem may be with us even after Qadhafi, once there is an organization of international terrorism. It is important to destroy the organization itself.

(C) Mr. Guiga said there are Irish, Germans, Egyptians, Palestinians, Sudanese, Tunisians and many other nationalities involved -- it is a kind of Mafia -- a Euro-Arabic-African terrorist organization.

(S) Mr. Carlucci said he very much sympathized with Tunisian concern about Qadhafi and made the following points:

- He has talked to Nimeiri who is also concerned, but Sudan's military capability is very limited.
- There are weaknesses in Qadhafi's organization that can be used against him.
- Qadhafi has clearly overreached himself in Chad.
- Qadhafi is now engaging in diplomatic initiatives to counter criticism, which shows he is worried.
- Indeed, the US intends to follow tougher policies against Libya and international terrorism.
- Nimeiri thinks Qadhafi is controlled by the Soviets; he may not be, but he is certainly an instrumentality of the Soviets.
- It would help if Mr. Guiga talked to the Congress about Qadhafi.

(U) Ambassador Hedda said Mr. Guiga would meet with Senator Percy that afternoon.

(U) The Deputy Secretary suggested he also see Congressman Zablocki and Congressman Long, and perhaps most important, the senior man on the Appropriations Committee, Congressman Jamie Whitten.

(C) In closing, the Deputy Secretary said he and Secretary Weinberger had been on the Hill earlier that morning to encourage the Congress to vote before the summer recess on the Security Assistance authorization bill. If the bill is not signed before the recess, we will be into September before it is signed, and to the end of the year before credit is available -- he said it was a difficult situation *and* but he did not want to mislead them *on this issue*.


LEONARD HILLEBRANDT

Assistant for North Africa

APPROVED: RADM J. Howe 

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